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b) exposing the [substrate] adsorbent to the target analyte and to the agent under the elution condition [to allow] that allows binding between the target analyte and the adsorbent;

c) [detecting] measuring an amount of binding between the target analyte and the adsorbent by desorption spectrometry, wherein desorption spectrometry comprises desorbing and ionizing the target analyte from the adsorbent with an energy source and detecting the desorbed and ionized target analyte with a detector; and

d) [determining whether the measured amount is different than a control amount of binding when the substrate is exposed to the target analyte under the elution condition without the agent] determining whether the agent modulates binding by comparing the measured amount of binding between the target analyte and the adsorbent in the presence of the agent and a control amount of binding between the target analyte and the adsorbent without the presence of the agent.[;]

[whereby] a difference between the measured amount and the control amount [indicates] indicating that the agent modulates binding.

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from a combinatorial library of agents and wherein the substrate comprises a plurality of adsorbents, the method further comprising [for screening a combinatorial library of agents comprising] exposing each of a plurality of agents in the library to each of a plurality of the adsorbents.

Please add the following new claims.

- -- 70. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the agent is a drug candidate.
- 71. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the agent is a drug candidate and wherein the target analyte comprises a protein and wherein the adsorbent comprises a ligand that binds to the target protein.